Permission for Ultra Low Sulphur Diesel Buses

2375. SHRI BRATIN SENGUPTA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the private bus operators of the capital have sought permission to ply buses on ultra low sulphur diesel having 0.05 per cent of sulphur as it is permitted in world over;

(b) whether a clear cut transport policy for the National Capital Region is a must; and

(c) if so, what is Government's reaction on both the issues?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERTOLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The Government had sought permission of the Supreme Court to direct that the city bus fleet in the National Capital Territory of Delhi may comprise of Bharat Stage-II emission complaint buses using CNG or diesel as fuel, and that the bus operators should have the option to ply Bharat State-II emission complaint buses using either CNG or 0.05% max. sulphur diesel subject to such conditions as the Court may like to lay down. The Supreme Court did not give permission for the above. Petrol and diesel of improved quality is being supplied to the National Capital Region of Delhi to enable new vehicles to be of Bharat Stage-II technology and emission complaint. The NCR Planning Board Act, 1985 envisages evolving harmonized policies for the control of land uses and development of infrastructure in the National Capital Region so as to avoid any haphazard development thereof. The Regional Plan of NCR 2001 indicated that a sound Transport Policy will be a catalyst for the growth and economic development of the region and also influence the direction of growth.

Demand and Supply of Petroleum Products

2376. SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) the gap between demand and supply of petrol and petroleum products during the last two years;

(b) the quantum of production, consumption and import of petrol and petroleum products and foreign exchange spent thereon during the corresponding period; and

(c) the steps being taken to bridge the gap between demand and supply?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) and (b) The Gap between Demand and Supply of petrol and petroleum products during the last two years is given below:

	Petrol	Petroleum Products (Figures in TMT)
1999-2000	322	(-)14,150
2000-2001	1,455	(-) 711

The consumption and production of petrol and petroleum during the last two years is given below:-

	Petrol	Petroleum Products (Figures in TMT)
1999-2000		
Consumption	5,909	97,086
Production	6,231	82,936
2000-2001		
Consumption	6,613	100,075
Production	8,068	99,364

The import of petrol and petroleum products and foreign exchange spent thereon during last two years is given below :—

	1999-2000			2000-2001		
	Qty. '000' Tonnes	Value Rs.Crore	$ Million	Qty. '000' Tonnes	Value Rs.Crore	$ Million
Public Sector	12,313	10,402	2,394	3,007	3,793	829
Private Sector	4,295	3,783	870	6,260	8,300	1,813
Total Product Imports	16,608	14,185	3,264	9,267	12,093	2,642

(c) The following steps are being taken to bridge the gap between Demand and Supply :—

(i) Refinery capacity in the country has been increased during the last two years by commissioning of new grass-root refineries and expansion of existing refineries. With this, the refining capacity in the country presently is marginally higher than demand.

(ii) With the present refining installed capacity of 114.7 MMTPA as on 01-10-2001, the domestic requirement of petroleum products is largely met from domestic production.

(iii) Imports/exports of petroleum products are limited to imbalances in demand and production of specific products.

Adulteration of Diesel in Delhi

2377. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Apex Court had directed the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas to supply diesel which contains .05 percent sulphur;

(b) whether it is a fact that diesel supplied now to the various petrol pumps in Delhi and elsewhere was allegedly found adulterated at different stages before reaching the filling stations; and

(c) if so, whether Government propose to appoint an agency to conduct surprise checks at petrol pumps, oil depots and tankers in order to collect sample of contaminated diesel?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No case of adulteration of diesel at different stages before reaching the filling station has been detected so far. As a part of the special campaign as per the Order of the Court, the Anti Adulteration Cell Officers inspected four on road vehicles and taken samples, but no adulteration has been detected.

(c) An Anti Adulteration Cell, headed by Director General, has been set up under the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas to check adulteration of petrol and diesel.